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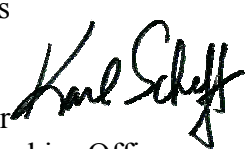
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Date: March 28, 2003

To: County and District Superintendents
CBEDS Coordinators

From: Karl Scheff, Manager 
Educational Demographics Office

Subject: Changes to October 2003 California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS)
Reporting Requirements

This memorandum is to update you on significant reporting changes on the upcoming October 2003 CBEDS collection. These changes include new guidelines for reporting dropouts, the collection of an unduplicated enrollment count for alternative education, and the collection of additional information to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. We are notifying you of these modifications and additional requirements now so that your county or district will be ready to report these data by CBEDS Information Day, which is set for Wednesday, October 1, 2003.

Dropouts

This year, the California Department of Education adopted the dropout definition used by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). This change in dropout reporting will apply to the 2002-03 dropout data that counties/districts will report on the October 2003 CBEDS. Information about this decision was included in an August 2, 2002 letter mailed to district superintendents and CBEDS coordinators from Susan Lange titled, "Dropout Definition Unchanged for CBEDS October 2002, Dropout Definition to be Modified for CBEDS October 2003." This letter is available on our Internet site at:
<<http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics/coord/dropoutdef2.pdf>>.

Detailed dropout reporting instructions, including exclusionary conditions, examples, additional guidelines, and a dropout "checklist" are available on the Educational Demographics website at:
<<http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics/dropchanges03.htm>>.

Alternative Education

On the School Information Form (SIF), Alternative Education, Section G, each school will be asked to report the total unduplicated count of alternative education enrollment for the school. A

student participating in any of the seven programs listed on the form would only be counted once on this total line.

No Child Left Behind Requirements

Due to the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, the October 2003 CBEDS will collect dropout and graduate information on the following groups of students: ***migrant, economically disadvantaged, English Learner, and special education***. The 2003 CBEDS School Information Form will include a new section to collect information on the number of graduates and the number of dropouts for each of grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 for these four sub-groups. The ***economically disadvantaged*** subgroup will be based upon National School Lunch Program (NSLP) eligibility. This count represents students eligible for the NSLP, not necessarily those participating.

Please refer to the December 17, 2002 letter, "Joint Education/Agriculture Letter about the Use of Student Information collected Pursuant to the National School Lunch Program," for information about the release of aggregate NSLP data at: (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/letter121702.html>). Also refer to the February 20, 2003 letter titled, "Joint US Department of Education and Department of Agriculture Letter Providing Guidance on Implementation of the New Requirements of Title I by Schools that Operate School Lunch Programs," for specific information about how to report "Provision 2" and "Provision 3" NSLP data for schools at: (<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SASA/22003.html>).

Please monitor <http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics/> for updates on these and other CBEDS-related issues. The October 2003 SIF will be posted on this site.

For additional questions please contact the Educational Demographics Office at (916) 327-0219.